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NEWS RELEASE

THESE MEN TAKE A VOW OF POVERTY, BUT GIVE MILLIONS TO UNIVERSITY \$17.5 MILLION GIFT CREDITED TO FRUGALITY, FORESIGHT, SAVVY STOCK PICKS

DAYTON, Ohio — How can a group of men take a vow of poverty, then turn around and give \$17.5 million to the University of Dayton?

That's the total value of the "Call to Lead" gift of the Cincinnati Province of the Society of Mary (the Marianists) over the six years of the University of Dayton's campaign. In fall 2000, they announced an initial \$10.5 million gift, the largest gift from an organization in UD's history. They have continued to make cash gifts, and today they upped their total commitment to \$17.5 million, pushing UD's ambitious \$150 million fund-raising and image-building campaign over the top to \$153 million, with a little over two months to go in the effort.

"If the stock market hadn't dropped, the total gift would have been over \$20 million," Brother Robert Metzger, S.M., treasurer for the province, said half apologetically.

About a third of the gift comes from the salaries that the province received for the services of the brothers and priests who work on campus. The rest comes from an allocation the province makes to UD of the gifts that it receives through its fund-raising efforts.

Marianists live a simple life together as equals. They draw their inspiration from Mary, the mother of Jesus, and believe strongly in service to youth and the poor. All but about \$11,200 of their annual salaries go back to the province, which began setting money aside and investing it when UD's last campaign ended in 1987. At the University of Dayton, many live on campus in Alumni Hall or share houses in the student neighborhoods. They work in various capacities — from the president to a facilities worker, from a new English professor

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to a retired religious studies professor who's taught a popular marriage class taken by more than 20,000 alumni.

"Our needs are met through sharing our resources. We don't need a lot of material things," said Brother Joseph Kamis, S.M., provincial. "Our concern is the Marianist mission and sharing our charism with others. We work with the youth and the poor, so a lot of our extra funds go toward educational purposes, such as schools and missions. People may not realize this, but the University of Dayton is the largest ministry in the Marianist world."

The gift, the most sizable in UD's history, "shows our commitment to the University of Dayton," Kamis said. "It is the cradle of the Marianists in the United States. It's where we got started, where St. Mary's Institute grew into what's become a major Catholic university. We want to ensure its legacy, demonstrate our commitment and show our belief in its future."

The gift also raises the bar for other UD supporters, according to Kamis. "This gift is a challenge to our benefactors."

The \$17.5 million will be used to fund scholarships and various other initiatives that strengthen UD's Catholic and Marianist identity. The gift includes partial funding for two endowed faculty positions in the College of Arts and Sciences: \$1 million to help establish the Father William J. Ferree Professor of Social Justice and \$500,000 to fully fund the Marianist Chair of Faith and Culture position.

Ferree, Dayton native, former provincial of the Cincinnati Province of the Society of Mary and an internationally known advocate for social justice, died in 1985. Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., who's stepping down as UD president on June 30 after a record 23-year stint, will return to campus in January as the first Ferree professor.

The gift also will help fund initiatives the Marianists have traditionally supported, such as:

- \$8 million for an endowment to support activities designed to strengthen UD's Catholic and Marianist identity, such as the Forum for Catholic Intellectual Tradition and other initiatives from the provost's office;

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- \$3 million for scholarships, focused on attracting students from Marianist high schools, based on academic achievement, leadership and service;
- \$2.3 million for an endowment and operating expenses for the rector's office to expand Marianist charism at the University of Dayton;
- \$1.4 million endowment for the operation of the International Marian Research Institute, which, in affiliation with the Pontifical Theological Faculty Marianum in Rome, offers advanced pontifical degrees with specialization in Mariology; and
- \$1.3 million for outreach to the Catholic Church through UD's Institute for Pastoral Initiatives.

"The gift is certainly reflective of the Marianist mission at the University of Dayton, and we're deeply appreciative of the province's generosity," said Thomas J. Danis, chair and chief executive officer of the Danis Companies who co-chaired the campaign with William Bombeck.

During UD's last major fund-raising campaign in the 1980s, the Marianists gave \$5 million. The more than \$20 million donated during the last two campaigns doesn't adequately reflect the order's contribution to the school they founded, sponsored and built into one of the largest, most-respected Catholic universities in the nation. In 1850, a priest and three brothers started St. Mary's School for Boys, which initially enrolled 14 students. It eventually, after several name changes, became the University of Dayton and grew into the state's largest independent university. For most of UD's history, the Marianists earned no salaries, only living expenses from the province. In 1952, the Marianists transferred ownership of all the property to the University of Dayton.